

HIGHLIGHTS:  
Floriculture  
Livestock Slaughter  
U.S. Cold Storage

Agricultural Prices  
U.S. Egg Production

### Floriculture

**UTAH:** In 2003 there were 82 growers of floriculture with wholesale values of sales of \$10,000 or more, down from 90 growers in 2002. They had 6.2 million square feet of covered growing area, a decrease of 109,000 from 2002. The total wholesale value of all reported crops for growers with more than \$100,000 in sales was \$96.4 million, up 4.5 percent from last year. Of the \$96.4 million in sales in 2003, the value of sales for total bedding/garden plants was \$76.3 million, total potted flowering plants \$13.8 million, and total foliage for indoor or patio use \$3.1 million.

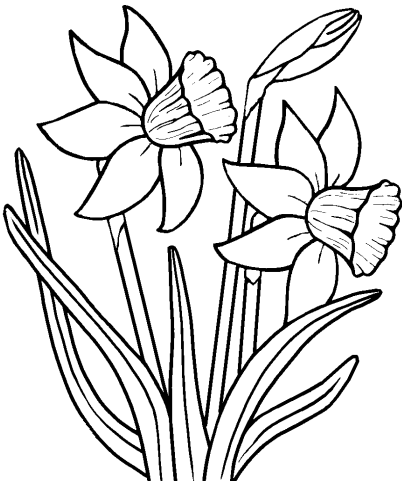
**UNITED STATES: All Value of Production:** The 2003 wholesale value of floriculture crops is down 1 percent from the revised 2002 valuation. The total wholesale crop value for all growers with \$10,000 or more in sales is estimated at \$5.16 billion for 2003, compared with \$5.21 billion for 2002. California is again the leading State with crops valued at just over \$1.00 billion, down 2 percent from the previous year. Florida is down 1 percent from 2002 with \$823 million in wholesale value. These two States account for 35 percent of the total value. The top five States are California, Florida, Michigan, Texas, and New York which account for \$2.66 billion, 52 percent of the total value.

**Number of Growers:** The number of growers for 2003, at 11,913, is down 8 percent compared with the 2002 revised count of 12,916. The number of growers with sales of \$100,000 or more dropped to 4,741 for 2003 from 4,974 in 2002. The number of growers in all size-groups experienced decreases from the previous year.

**Growing Area:** Total covered area for floriculture crop production is recorded at 929 million square feet, 3 percent less than the revised 2002 estimate. Greenhouse space for 2003 accounts for 60 percent of the total covered area with 554 million square feet, down 2 percent from 2002. Film plastic structures are down 1 percent, to 392 million square feet. Fiberglass and other rigid plastic covers are down 5 percent for the year, while glass greenhouse area is down 4 percent compared to the revised 2002 area. Shade and temporary cover constitute the remaining 375 million square feet of covered area, down 4 percent from 2002. Open ground usage totals 47,105 acres, up 11 percent

over the revised 2002 total. **Hired Workers:** The average number of hired workers employed on operations in 2003 is 14.9, up from a revised 14.2 in 2002. A total of 8,882 operations hired workers during 2003, compared with 9,598 a year earlier. Overall, 75 percent of the operations used some hired labor during 2003, compared to 74 percent in 2002.

**Total Wholesale Value:** The total wholesale value of floriculture crops grown by operations exceeding the \$100,000 sales level is \$4.85 billion for 2003, down 1 percent from the revised 2002 total. These operations account for 94 percent of the total value of floriculture crops, but comprise only 40 percent of all growers. California has 20 percent of the total wholesale value for the 36 States surveyed. Florida ranks second with 17 percent. Michigan, Texas, and New York round out the top five States with 7 percent, 6 percent, and 4 percent, respectively. Bedding and garden plants wholesale value, at \$2.48 billion, is the largest contributor to the value of production, up 1 percent from the previous year. Potted flowering plants value, at \$857 million, is down 2 percent from 2002. The foliage category is valued at \$623 million for 2003. This is down 5 percent from the revised 2002 estimate. Value of cut flowers, at \$425 million, is down less than 1 percent, while cut cultivated greens, at \$109 million, is down 5 percent from 2002.



### US March Egg Production Up 1 Percent

**U.S. egg production** totaled 7.53 billion during March 2004, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.44 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2004 averaged 341 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,209 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2003. March 2004 contained 23 weekdays and four Saturdays compared to March 2003 which contained 21 weekdays and five Saturdays.

Layers & Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type, United States, March- April 2003-04			
Item	2003 <sup>1/</sup>	2004	2004 as % of 2003
<b>Layers during Mar (Thousand)</b>			
All Layers	339,885	340,835	100
Table Egg Type	279,909	281,664	101
Hatching Egg Type	59,976	59,171	99
<b>Eggs per 100 Layers during Mar (Number)</b>			
All Layers	2,184	2,209	101
Table Egg Type	2,256	2,288	101
Hatching Egg Type	1,847	1,837	99
<b>Eggs produced during Mar (Million)</b>			
All Layers	7,424	7,530	101
Table Egg Type	6,316	6,444	102
Hatching Egg Type	1,108	1,087	98
Item	2003 <sup>1/</sup>	2004	2004 as % of 2003
<b>Layers on Apr 1 (Thousand)</b>			
All Layers	339,645	341,849	101
Table Egg Type	279,713	282,779	101
Hatching Egg Type	59,932	59,070	99
<b>Eggs per 100 Layers on Apr 1 (Number)</b>			
All Layers	70.9	72.0	102

<sup>1/</sup> Revised.

## Livestock Slaughter

**UTAH: Commercial red meat production** totaled 33.0 million pounds in March 2004, 17.7 percent below March of the previous year. **Cattle slaughter** in Utah for March 2004 totaled 44,100 head, 15 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was 1,167 pounds, down 49 pounds from March 2003. **Hog slaughter** totaled 4,000 head, up 500 head from March 2003. The average live weight was 219 pounds, up 20 pounds from the previous year. **Sheep and lamb slaughter** during March 2004 totaled 3,100 head, up 400 head from the previous year. Average live weight, at 131 pounds, was up 4 pounds from the previous year.

**UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in March 2003. **Beef production**, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.87 million head, up 4 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was down 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,217 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 14.2 million pounds, 14 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 76,900 head, down 10 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was 15 pounds below last year, at 308 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 9.04 million head, 11 percent above March 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from previous year, at 268 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 22.1 million pounds, was up 22 percent from March 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 306,800 head, 17 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter, March 2003-2004 <sup>1</sup>				
Item	Utah		United States	
	March		March	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
<b>Production (Million Pounds)</b>				
Red Meat . . . .	40.1	33.0	3,706.1	3,946.2
<b>Number Slaughtered (Thousand Head)</b>				
Cattle . . . . .	51.9	44.1	2,773.9	2,871.2
Calves . . . . .	1	1	85.0	76.9
Hogs . . . . .	3.5	4.0	8,168.3	9,038.7
Sheep & Lamb	2.7	3.1	262.7	306.8
<b>Average Live Weight (Pounds)</b>				
Cattle . . . . .	1,216	1,167	1,234	1,217
Calves . . . . .	1	1	323	308
Hogs . . . . .	199	219	268	268
Sheep & Lamb	127	131	138	144

## U.S. Cold Storage Highlights

**Frozen Food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on January 31, 2004 were below last year's levels for poultry, red meat, and orange juice concentrate. Butter stocks were up 45 percent from last month, but 29 percent below last year. **Total red meat supplies** in freezers were 9 percent above last month, but 5 percent below January 31, 2003. Frozen pork stocks were 9 percent above last month's levels but only slightly below last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 29 percent from last month and up 78 percent from last year. **Total frozen poultry supplies** on January 31, 2004 were down 2 percent from last month, and down 20 percent from last year. Total stocks of chicken were down 13 percent from last month, and down 26 percent from a year ago. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 16 percent from last month, but down 9 percent from January 31, 2003.

Stocks in Cold Storage, United States			
Commodity	Jan 31, 2003	Dec 31, 2003	Jan 31, 2004
1,000 Pounds			
<b>Total Frozen</b>			
Eggs . . . . .	15,340	18,036	21,386
Chicken . . . . .	722,477	611,472	532,475
Turkey . . . . .	451,874	354,039	409,911
Total Poultry	1,179,573	966,703	943,870
Cherries, Tart			
RTP . . . . .	47,995	68,945	60,753
Juice . . . . .	1,362	1,707	1,308
Cherries, Sweet . .	7,195	6,655	6,039
Potatoes . . . . .	1,173,053	1,120,418	1,156,566
Beef . . . . .	482,419	395,084	435,610
Pork . . . . .	512,657	470,656	510,724
Lamb & Mutton	6,232	3,795	3,395
Total Meat . . . . .	1,015,168	878,958	961,199
<b>Total in Storage</b>			
Apples, Fresh . . . .	3,576,931	4,114,748	3,425,099
Butter . . . . .	204,828	99,613	144,616
Cheese, Natural . .			
American . . . . .	514,914	491,419	510,741
Swiss . . . . .	25,060	26,237	25,467
Other Natural . . .	221,241	206,730	215,118

## Agricultural Prices

**Utah:** Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-April 2004, compared with March 2004, were up for barley, alfalfa hay, and other hay, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lamb price for March 2004 was \$104.00 per cwt, up \$11.00 from April 2003. The March 2004 sheep price, at \$31.00 was \$3.00 above April 2003.

Barley, at \$2.66 per bushel, was up 7 cents from the previous month's price but 9 cents below last year. Baled alfalfa hay was \$81.00 per ton, up \$6.00 from last month but \$12.00 below last year. Other hay, at \$70.00 per ton, was \$8.00 higher than last month but \$6.00 lower than April 2003.

**United States:** The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April at 124, based on 1990-92=100, is 3 points (2.5 percent) above the March Index. This is the highest index level since records began. The Livestock Products Index increased 4 points (3.3 percent) from March while the All Crops Index increased 2 points (1.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for milk, cattle, corn, and lettuce. Lower prices were received for eggs, strawberries, hogs, and tobacco. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of cattle, milk, strawberries, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and hogs. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 23 points (23 percent) from April 2003.

The Food Commodities Index increased 3 points (2.5 percent) from last month to 125. The index stands 26 points (26 percent) above April 2003.

## Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Utah			United States		
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
		Apr 2003	Mar 2004	Apr 2004 <sup>1</sup>	Apr 2003	Mar 2004	Apr 2004 <sup>1</sup>
Livestock & Products							
Lambs	Dol/Cwt	93.00	104.00	( <sup>2</sup> )	93.70	104.00	( <sup>2</sup> )
Sheep	Dol/Cwt	28.00	31.00	( <sup>2</sup> )	31.10	36.70	( <sup>2</sup> )
Crops							
Barley	Dol/Bu	2.75	2.59	2.66	2.85	2.79	2.73
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	93.00	75.00	81.00	96.50	85.90	92.70
Other Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	76.00	62.00	70.00	79.50	70.90	76.00

<sup>1</sup> Prices refer to sales occurring about the 15th of the month.

<sup>2</sup> April data will be published next month.

<sup>1</sup> Missing data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.